

COMMENTARY

GOSPEL OF MARK
Chapter 5

vs. 1-20:

Jesus and His disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee (Lake Tiberias) and headed in a south-easterly direction. Upon landing on shore, they were approached by a demon-possessed man. The demons gave the man incredible strength, so great that nothing could bind him and nobody could overcome him.

The demon recognized Jesus instantly and approached asking for mercy. It realized the authority and power of Jesus and the necessity for it to be submissive to Him. The many demons in the man, asked Jesus that they might be cast into the herd of swine (rather than the abyss). Upon doing, the pigs rushed over the cliff and about 2,000 drowned in the sea. The man was then restored to health and sanity.

Those witnessing the event (caring for the pigs) rushed off to tell the story. People came from all over and upon seeing the man in his right mind, were afraid. Recognizing the loss of pigs as well, they then asked Jesus to leave their region.

Jesus instructed the demon-possessed man to go and tell others what God had done for him, and the man was obedient.

vs. 21-43:

Upon re-crossing the lake, Jesus was again surrounded by a large crowd. Jairus, a synagogue ruler, asked Jesus to come and heal his daughter who was dying.

On the way to Jairus' home, a woman who had been sick for 12 years, reached out in faith and touched the edge of Jesus garment, believing that she would be cured. Upon her healing, Jesus stopped and asked for the healed person to come forward. When she did, Jesus commended her for her faith.

About that time, they received word that Jairus' daughter had died. Jesus ignored the remark and told Jairus to believe. Upon arriving at the home, where mourners had already begun the lament, Jesus, Peter, James and John, and the parents went into the girls room. Jesus then raised her back to life and instructed them not to tell anyone what had transpired.

GOSPEL OF MARK
Chapter 6:

vs. 1- 6:

Jesus returned home to Nazareth and on the Sabbath began to teach in the synagogue. People could not understand how He had become so learned and rejected His testimony because of their lack of understanding. Therefore, Jesus did few miracles there, because of their lack of faith.

vs. 7-13:

As Jesus went out teaching, He called the 12 together and sent them out in pairs to cast out evil spirits. They were to take no provisions. The town where they lodged would provide for their needs. If a town refused to accept them, they were to leave, shaking even the dust of that town from off of their feet (to show their total lack of desire to have anything to do with it). They went out preaching for people to repent, casting out demons and anointed the sick with oil and healed them.

vs. 14-29:

King Herod and others heard of the miracles that Jesus performed and tried to determine exactly who He was. Some claimed that Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead or one like the prophets of the Old Testament era. Others suggested He was Elijah (who was prophesied to return in the day of the Messiah [in actuality, John the Baptist filled the role of the promised Elijah]).

Herod was sure that John, whom he had killed, had returned from the dead.

John had been proclaiming the sinfulness of Herod marrying his sister-in-law and had John arrested. Fearing the power of John, he kept him imprisoned and did nothing else. Herod's wife continued to seek a way to get rid of John. Finally, on Herod's birthday, his step-daughter danced. This so pleased Herod that he offered her up to half of his kingdom. At her mother's advice, she requested John's head on a platter. Herod was thus forced to comply and John was martyred.

vs. 30-44:

The disciples returned to Jesus and reported the results of their ministries. Because of all the activity, Jesus took the disciples away privately by boat. The crowd ran on foot to try and head them off and be able to see Jesus again.

When they came ashore and were surrounded by the people, Jesus had compassion on them, because they were leaderless and directionless people. He then began to teach them.

After time had passed and the people became hungry, Jesus asked His disciples to provide food for the people. Their skepticism caused Jesus to inquire into exactly what food was available. It was determined that there was a total of five loaves and 2 fish. Once the people were seated and Jesus gave thanks, He had His disciples distribute the food to the people.

The food multiplied and ended up feeding 5,000 men, besides the women and children. Besides this, there were 12 basketfuls left-over!

VS. 45-56:

Jesus then sent His disciples on ahead to Bethsaida by boat, while He dismissed the people and went off to pray. In the evening, Jesus came to the disciples walking on the water and they were terrified. Jesus calmed them and then entered the boat. The disciples had not understood the greatness of Jesus' power after the feeding of the 5,000 and there were afraid yet, at this occurrence.

People from Gennesaret recognized Jesus and brought the sick out to be healed.

STUDY GUIDE

Mark 5

1. Who greeted Jesus when He landed in the region of the Gerasenes?
2. How did the demons response at Jesus' arrival?
3. What did the demons request?
4. What did the people see, when they went out to find out what happened?
5. How did the people react?
6. What instructions did Jesus give the man He had healed?
7. What did Jairus want Jesus to do?
8. Who wanted to touch the cloak of Jesus?
9. What happened when the woman touched Jesus?
10. What did Jesus say had healed her?
11. Upon hearing of the girls death, what did Jesus tell Jairus?
12. Who witnessed Jesus raising the girl back to life?

BONUS:

1. Of what importance is the healing of the demon-possessed man?
2. Would people plead with Jesus to leave their region, today? Explain.
3. Of what importance is faith, in the healing process?

STUDY GUIDE

Mark 6

1. How did the people of Nazareth react to Jesus? (see vs. 3)
2. What amazed Jesus at Nazareth?
3. What did those who went out, do?
4. Why did Herod arrest John?
5. What request did the girl make of Herod?
6. What did the apostles do, upon returning?
7. Why did Jesus have compassion on the people?
8. How much food did the disciples find?
9. How many were fed, and how much was left?
10. What did Jesus do, after leaving His disciples?
11. How did Jesus go out to His disciples?
12. Who were healed?

BONUS:

1. Are God's people respected today? Explain.
2. Why do you think Jesus had the 12 go out?
3. Which impresses you more and why—feeding 5,000 or walking on the water?